

The Ohayo Post



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Serving the Yama Sakura 47 Community

January 22, 2005

Bilateral forces prepare for YS 47

By Sgt. James C. Sherrill

American military personnel and Japan Self-Defense Force members have been sliding their way into snow covered Camp Higashi-Chitose to kick off Yama Sakura 47, a bilateral training exercise taking place Jan 25-31.

The YS 47 exercise brings together two different countries, and the preparation behind it brings them closer together.

"We work with our Japanese counterparts all year planning the exercise, and I think that helps us build our good relationship," said Army Maj. Mark Spencer, a logistics planner with Logistics Task Force-35.

Despite the bitter cold on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, and the occasional loss of footing on the frosted landscape, logistics and support personnel from the two countries are pushing forward together. They are setting up computer networks, communications systems, medical and dining facilities, postal and legal services, and they have arranged transportation around the camp in preparation for one of the largest training exercises held in the



Photo by Sgt. James C. Sherrill

Maj. Mark Herrin, left, and Lt. Col. Yoshito-Yoshioka, far right, work together with their staffs during a logistics planning meeting.

Pacific theater.

The Japanese members participating include the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Northern Army, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Japan Ground Staff Office and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

American units from more than 30 states will also participate. The majority are from I Corps, based in Fort Lewis, Wash., U.S. Army Japan based at both Camp Zama and Torii Station in Okinawa, and the 9th Theater Support Command based in Fort Belvoir, Va.,

Additionally National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers from more than 25 states will participate in the exercise and members of the Leavenworth, Kan. based opposition force, World Class OPFOR, will play the part of "the bad guys."

According to Michael Cotton, operations planner for USARJ, a large contingent of Marines were earmarked to participate, but most were pulled from the exercise to help with tsunami relief efforts further south.

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Samurai Lounge to air championship football game

By Spc. Curtis Porter III

If you're an avid National Football League fan you're in luck. Samurai Lounge will broadcast live the league's NFC Championship Game that will be shown via Japanese TV channel BS2.

The failure of an international communications satellite Saturday caused U.S. government audiences in the Pacific region to lose normal access to American Forces Network programming.

Master Sgt. Kevin Moffett, the LTF-35 communications chief, said, "The equipment we have here can't support the

AFN satellite signal being downlinked and we knew how much the Soldiers wanted to view the games this weekend so the arrangement with the Japanese television station was able to be made."

Staff members have also arranged for fans to at least hear the American Football Conference's marquee game between the New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers.

"We'll have the radio broadcast of the AFC Championship live via the Internet," Moffett said. "We'll pipe the game over the lounge speakers".

Samurai Lounge staff recommends fans come early to get seats.

ARRIVAL, from page 1

"We've done thorough planning for the past year, including the strategic management of moving personnel to get to the exercise," said Lt. Col. Lee Stockland, the site support commander of Logistics Task Force 35. His unit had the mammoth task of handling all U.S. shipments of exercise personnel and equipment both in and out of the camp.

While there are plenty of troops on the ground, they won't be sloshing through the snow performing maneuvers because this bilateral exercise is played out mostly on computers. Japanese and American commanders are presented with real-world scenarios, testing their ability to work together as a team.

The high-tech computer-generated simulations being used play only a small role in helping them work together, according to Spencer.

He added JSDF have been very generous when it comes to providing the American forces with things such as buildings in which to sleep and work. They are also providing a shuttle service around the camp.

"They've just bent over backwards to help us, and we're grateful for that because without the support they provide, it would be hard to pull off," said Maj. Mark Herrin, an American support operations officer during the exercise.

Herrin also said JSDF members have been very hospitable by making sure U.S. troops are comfortable during their visit.

Lt. Col. Yoshito Yoshioka, group chief of logistics management for



Photo by Sgt. James C. Sherrill

New JGSDF members practice rifle drills across from YS 47 Command Headquarters.

JSDF, is one of the planners and is working with Herrin and others to make sure everything from showers to parking lot space is managed properly.

"We're working great together," Yoshioka said. "Sometimes there's a little bit of a language barrier, but so far we have been able to get a 'yes' or 'no' answer to every question or problem that comes up."

While the beginning of the exercise Tuesday will most likely present new challenges for both sides, so far it seems they haven't seen an issue they can't handle together.

Top U.S. Stories

Bush sworn in for 2nd term

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush was sworn in for a second term Thursday and vowed to continue to fight terrorism with a sweeping campaign to promote democracy across the globe, a task he cast as "the calling of our time."

Yao leading Shaq at polls

NEW YORK - Yao Ming leads Shaquille O'Neal by more than 50,000 votes in the race for the No. 1 overall spot in the final days of NBA All-Star balloting. With voting closing Sunday, Houston Rockets center Yao had 2,153,039 votes to lead the West, while the Miami Heat's O'Neal topped the Eastern Conference with 2,099,201.

L.A. doesn't want Angels

SANTA ANA, Calif. - The city of Los Angeles filed a brief Wednesday supporting Anaheim's lawsuit that claims the name Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim violates the team's stadium lease. Los Angeles calls it "improper" for the Angels to use the name of a city in which they do not play or pay taxes. The Angels said the name change is intended to increase fans, advertisers and broadcast contracts.

(Compiled from USA Today)

The Ohayo Post

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Staying on your best behavior

By *Spc. Curtis Porter III*

American military personnel stationed all over the world have come to northern Japan to participate in Yama Sakura 47, and there are “do’s and don’ts” that you should know to make your visit safe, secure, and trouble free.

You will work alongside JSDF members during the exercise, and establishing relationships with them is not only expected, but encouraged.

With that in mind, working and socializing with your host country counterparts should be done in the spirit of good will, tempered with common sense.

“Most Soldiers don’t realize there is a difference between Japanese and American law,” said Capt. Anthony Valenti, a lawyer with the 9th Theater Support Command office of the staff judge advocate.

“The Status of Forces Agreement the United States has with Japan defines exactly what Japanese authorities can do to service members who have broken laws,” said Valenti.

“There are three things a Soldier should do if detained by either Japanese civilian or military authorities,” he said. “Identify yourself as a U.S. military service member, cooperate and be respectful.”

Valenti stressed that service members should show regard to authority, a well-established custom in Japan.

As you interact with your Japanese counterparts you may find it enticing to purchase items for your new friends at the American PX. This is not allowed. Although you, as a U.S. service member, may use the Japanese PX, JSDF members cannot utilize or have U.S. personnel make purchases for them in the American PX.

“The Status Of Forces Agreement does not make allowances for members of the JGSDF to utilize the PX,” Valenti said.



Photo by Spc. Curtis Porter

Staff Sgt. Larina Beltran, with 49th Personnel Support Battalion and Spc. Elizabeth Hernandez, with 100th Troop Command, brave the cold.

SOFA does allow for gifts to be exchanged as long as the value does not exceed \$285. Soldiers may purchase and exchange items such as coffee cups, rank pins or unit patches.

Military Police officials want Soldiers to be aware personnel on TDY status for the exercise must have a military license issued by U.S. Army Japan to drive on and off post.

“If a service member is driving off post and they came here from the U.S. only for the duration the exercise, and they aren’t assigned to a position calling for them to drive a vehicle, then they are not authorized to be behind the wheel,” said Sgt. Wesley Fritz, the MP traffic non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Fritz also recommended all such instances be handled at the lowest possible level.

“If we get involved, it will move up the food chain pretty quickly, and that won’t be good for the Soldier,” Fritz said.

As you interact with Japanese civilians and military personnel, remember you represent of the United States. Conduct yourself accordingly, and your stay will be productive and fun.

Checklist

Do’s

- Do use a seatbelt while driving
- Do report any accidents to MPs (call 090-9395-5101)
- Do interact with your Japanese counterparts
- Do be aware of your alcohol consumption
- Do show and treat Japanese with respect.
- Do participate in events with your Japanese counterparts
- Do exchange business cards with your Japanese counterparts.

Do Not’s

- Do not Drink and Drive
- Do not purchase items from the PX for Japanese Soldiers
- Do not overindulge or display unusual behavior at social gatherings.
- Do not enter the Japanese areas off limits to U.S. personnel
- Do not drive with an unauthorized license
- Do not leave sensitive items unsecured
- Do not purchase alcohol and take into the billets.

Americans learn Japanese culture

By Spc. Heather McLemore

Most Americans visiting a foreign country may experience culture shock.

Shocked or not, American military members should respect the customs and traditions of the Japanese.

"I just got here to Camp Higashi-Chitose from Maryland," said Maryland Army National Guard Spc. James Sharpe. "I have never been to a foreign land...., and I was a little nervous about offending our Japanese hosts."

Everything from greeting members of the Japan Self-Defense Force to taking a shower may be cause for distress. It is common for the JSDF to offer greetings based on the time of day. For example they may say *ohayo*, or "good morning," and later in the day greet someone with *konnichiwa* or "good afternoon."

"I have to think of the greeting of the hour when they greet me," said Sharpe. "I'm learning slowly."

When entering a Japanese home it is customary to remove your shoes.



Photo by Spc. Heather McLemore

Shoes sit on a shelf at a restaurant at Camp Higashi-Chitose.

Other establishments such as restaurants also have designated rooms where shoes are not worn. The Japanese remove their shoes to keep the floors and mats in their living areas free from snow, dirt or mud. It is a common tradition Americans should not ignore.

"Our first day here I visited Sapporo, but I spent most of it in the

mall, so I haven't had to remove my shoes," said California Army National Guard Spc. Jannette McCoy.

Learning to use chopsticks properly is important while in Japan. Once you grasp onto the basic use of chopsticks you should also remember these important don'ts. Do not stab food with chopsticks or use them to move dishes on the table. Also you should not wave chopsticks in the air, or point, etc., nor should you pass food with them. While eating with the Japanese try everything not doing so is considered rude.

The *ofuro* is a public bathing area, which involves sitting down to shower and then soaking in a hot tub. Many visiting Americans enjoy using the *ofuro*, while others are less adventurous.

"I haven't made it to the *ofuro* yet, and I probably won't," said Sharpe. "I'm a little too modest for the public bathing experience."

Because Americans are guests here in Japan they should remember to use common sense when interacting with the Japanese. American military members should do their best to represent the U.S. military and their country.



Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Preston

Pfc. James Carroll, with HHC, 142nd Signal, and Spc. Jessica Seymour, with 142nd, Forward Active National Guard, I Corps, enjoy a Japanese luncheon using chopsticks.



Photo by Sgt. Jeff Lowry

Soldiers surf the internet and correspond via e-mail at Samurai Lounge during Yama Sakura 47.

Samurai Lounge offers fun for all

By Sgt. Jeff Lowry

In the few free moments a Soldier might have during Yama Sakura 47, there is plenty to keep a Soldier entertained.

At Samurai Lounge in Friendship Hall, a Soldier deployed to Camp Higashi-Chitose can find just about anything a Soldier could want and gives American Soldiers an opportunity to interact with their Japanese counterparts.

"It's nice. I like the lounge. It gets Soldiers to interact," said Staff Sgt. Michael Skaar with the Seattle based 476th Chemical Battalion, who played foosball with a Japanese Ground Self Defense-Force member at Samurai Lounge.

From movies, to internet access, morale phone calls, video games and pool tournaments there is plenty to keep a Soldier occupied.

Battle of the Units is held at the North Gym or the Samurai Lounge.

The morale building events include dodgeball, MRE eating contests and ping-pong tournament.

Saturday - BOTU Dodgeball at the North Gym

Sunday - BOTU Ping-Pong at Samurai Lounge

Sunday - BOTU MRE Eating Competition at Samurai Lounge

Movies run daily and continuously from 10 a.m. to midnight and include such hits as *Starsky & Hutch*, *Collateral* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

The JSDF is hosting several cultural workshops, also at the Samurai Lounge, including *ikebana* - flower arranging, *shodo* - calligraphy, *origami* - the art of paper folding.

Check Samurai Lounge for more information, including a complete schedule of the 'Battle of the Units' events. Contact Master Sgt. Kevin Moffett, the LTF-35 communications chief, at 270-9621 for more information.



Photo by Sgt. Jeff Lowry

Sgt. 1st Class Warren Parker, plays a ping-pong game with Staff Sgt. Jaime Bellis. Both are with 35th Supply and Services Battalion.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dennis Newton

When I was in my senior year of college, I discovered I had to take a freshman level course on Western Civilization. I already had over 50 units of history, including 30 units of graduate level work, and so I knew this class would be an "A" without much study.

One day, while the professor was lecturing, he turned to a subject I knew a bit about. He was telling about British historian David Hume's views on the existence of God and that miracles couldn't exist. Essentially, the professor stated correctly Hume's position that since natural laws exist, the breaching of these laws is impossible. In the study of history, don't look for processes which we can't observe. This is the scientific method.

Being outspoken when faced with deception, I asked a question which revealed the professor's subtle bias. Had he read the second volume which Hume wrote later in his life? The professor responded that he had. I asked if he was aware that Hume later refuted this view and came to the ultimate conclusion that he didn't know if God existed, but if he did, he could do whatever he wanted with natural law.

The professor didn't say anything as the bell rang for the class to end. He walked with me to my next class giving

an excuse that he considered the second work inferior. I suggested to him tactfully that it was the content of the work that caused him to dismiss it because it did not support his preconceived notion that God could not exist. He was, after all, an atheist.

The Psalmist said,
Fools care nothing for thoughtful discourse;
all they do is run off at the mouth ...
Many words rush along like rivers in flood,
but deep wisdom flows up from artesian springs ...
Fools are undone by their big mouths;
their souls are crushed by their words.
(Psalms 18:2-5)

Do you make the mistake of just speaking your mind in the face of the evidence? Do you grade the sources for your convictions in order to buttress what you believe rather than what the sources reveal? Do you thoughtfully listen to what others have to say before you dismiss them as unbelievable idiots because they don't agree with you?

All of this could lead you to consider what the Psalmist has to say about the fool. Let us learn from each other and be understanding of the feelings of those who hold different views and beliefs from our self. It leads to understand and dialogue which brings a broadening reality to each of us.

Mandatory fun

Stationed in Okinawa, Japan, my son and his wife were expecting their first baby. I was elated when he called me at work with the wonderful news of my grandchild's birth. I took down all the statistics and turned to relate it all to my co-workers. "I'm a grandmother!" I declared. "It's a baby girl, and she weighs five pounds." "When was she born?" someone asked. Recalling the date my son told me, I stopped, looked at the calendar and said in amazement, "Tomorrow!"

I recently returned to work after a year abroad with the Army Reserve. On my first day back, a visitor from headquarters took me aside. "How are you?" he asked, looking concerned. "Do you feel all right?" "I'm fine," I replied, nonplussed. "Great!" he said. "I heard that you were away from work for a year because you were in a wreck," It took a minute before it dawned on me what he meant. "Iraq," I said finally. "I've just come back from Iraq."

Laundry Services

Laundry Service will run
from Jan. 15-28

Hours of Operation

7 a.m. – 11 a.m. Drop Off
1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Pick Up



There is a one- to two-day turnaround, and no turn-in after 11 a.m. Presort items in the following manner; paired socks, T-shirts, short-sleeve shirts, long-sleeved shirts, underwear and pants. All clothes must be turned right side out. Laundry services will not accept linen, gloves, scarves or nylon stockings.

Weather

Four day weather forecast for Camp Higashi-Chitose

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Hi 32	Hi 28	Hi 33	Hi 26
Lo 24	Lo 24	Lo 24	Lo 26